

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
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DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLE IT
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NICOSIA 0673

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, CY, TU
SUBJECT: TURKISH AND GREEK CYPRIOT LABOR LEADERS TO HOLD JOINT
MEETINGS

REF: NICOSIA 0349 (DTG 041550Z FEB 77)

1. TURK-SEN (TURKISH CYPRIOT LABOR FEDERATION) AND
SEK (THE NON-COMMUNIST GREEK CYPRIOT WORKERS CONFEDERATION)
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ANNOUNCED MARCH 9 THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED IN GENEVA WITH
ICFTU OFFICIALS TO HOLD JOINT MEETINGS IN NICOSIA MAR 18 AND
19. MEETINGS WOULD BE ATTENDED BY 5 DELEGATES FROM TURKISH
CYPRIOT SIDE, 5 DELEGATES FROM GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE AS WELL AS
ICFTU SECRETARY GENERAL KERSTEN AND ICFTU REPRESENTATIVE PETER DE JONG. FIRST MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE
IN SEK HEADQUARTERS IN GREEK NICOSIA AND SECOND MEETING

IN TURK-SEN HEADQUARTERS IN TURKISH NICOSIA. ACCORDING TO LABOR LEADERS HERE, FINAL AGENDA HAS NOT YET BEEN SET BUT IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED WILL BE RELATIVELY NON-CONTROVERSIAL AND WILL INVOLVE DISCUSSION OF COMMON LABOR PROBLEMS AND WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE KARPASS AREA. IN ADDITION, EACH SIDE WILL HOST A LUNCH, AND ICFTU OFFICIALS WILL CALL ON ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS AND DENKTASH.

2. COMMENT: TURKISH CYPRIOT LABOR OFFICIALS ARE HOPEFUL THAT THIS TYPE OF CONTACT CAN BE GRADUALLY EXPANDED BUT MAKE CLEAR THAT THE RATE AND EXTENT OF THESE CONTACTS WILL DEPEND ENTIRELY ON PROGRESS IN INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AND ON IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES. WE BELIEVE THAT SMALL STEPS SUCH AS THESE TO BRING THE TWO COMMUNITIES TOGETHER ARE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE TISSUE-KNITTING PROCESS, AND WE HAVE QUIETLY ENCOURAGED LABOR LEADERS AND OTHERS IN THIS DIRECTION. FACT THAT MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN INDIVIDUAL OFFICES RATHER THAN NEUTRAL GROUND OF LEDRA PALACE AND FACT THAT LABOR OFFICIALS WILL BE DRIVING TO THE MEETINGS IN THEIR OWN CARS RATHER THAN IN AN OFFICIAL BUS ARE SMALL BUT SYMBOLIC STEPS TOWARD A MORE NORMAL RELATIONSHIP.
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